



SCREENING FOR SYPHILIS INFECTION IN PREGNANCY CLINICAL SUMMARY OF U.S. PREVENTIVE SERVICES TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

Population	All Pregnant Women
Recommendation	Screen for syphilis infection. Grade: A

Screening Tests	<p>Nontreponemal tests commonly used for initial screening include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Venereal Disease Research Laboratory (VDRL)• Rapid Plasma Reagin (RPR) <p>Confirmatory tests include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fluorescent treponemal antibody absorbed (FTA-ABS)• Treponema pallidum particle agglutination (TPPA)
Timing of Screening	Test all pregnant women at the first prenatal visit.
Other Clinical Considerations	<p>Most organizations recommend testing high-risk women again during the third trimester and at delivery.</p> <p>Groups at increased risk include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• uninsured women• women living in poverty• sex workers• illicit drug users• those diagnosed with other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs)• other women living in communities with high syphilis morbidity. <p>Prevalence is higher in southern U.S. and in metropolitan areas and in Hispanic and African American populations.</p>
Interventions	<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends treatment with parenteral benzathine penicillin G.</p> <p>Women with penicillin allergies should be desensitized and treated with penicillin.</p> <p>Consult the CDC for the most up-to-date recommendations: http://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment/</p>
Relevant USPSTF Recommendations	<p>Recommendations on screening for other STDs, and on counseling for STDs, can be found at www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov.</p>

For a summary of the evidence systematically reviewed in making these recommendations, the full recommendation statement, and supporting documents please go to <http://www.preventiveservices.ahrq.gov>.